



## **U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management**

Anchorage Field Office  
4700 BLM Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

<http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/ado.html>

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### **Categorical Exclusion New Cingular – Site Investigation**

**Applicant: New Cingular Wireless, PCS  
Case File Number: AA - 091129  
DOI-BLM-AK-1430-2009-0009-CX**



**Location:**  
Seward Meridian, T. 12 N., R. 3 W., Section 3

**Prepared By:**  
Jayme Lopez  
Realty Specialist  
1/22/2009

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Anchorage Field Office  
**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM**

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CX No.: DOI-BLM-AK-1430-2009-0009-CX      Lease/Serial/Case File No.: AA – 091129

Proposed Action Title/Types: Preliminary Site Investigation

Location of Proposed Action: Campbell Tract Administrative Site.  
Seward Meridian, T. 12 N., R. 3 W., Section 3

Description of Proposed Action:

The Applicant, New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (Cingular), proposes to perform a site investigation for a potential cellular tower facility on Campbell Tract's Central Administrative Site through use of contractors. The site investigation will include a preliminary hazardous materials assessment and site characterization of the soils by drilling a three inch hole into the soils, approximately ten feet deep for core sampling. The sample will be taken to determine the depth of the foundation necessary for a potential cellular facility based on monopole construction.

The site characterization is only preliminary investigation of the proposed site. The proposed communications lease site is being handled in case file number AA – 090827.

Applicant (if any): New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC

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**PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW**

LUP Name: *BLM – Alaska's Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan*

Date Approved: March 21, 2008

Other document(s):

1. *A Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the Bureau of Land Management Campbell Tract Facility*

Date Approved: June, 1988

The Tract is within the planning boundary of BLM-Alaska's Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan. The Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan was approved by BLM-Alaska's State Director on March 21, 2008. The Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan incorporates the provisions of *A Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the Bureau of Land Management Campbell Tract Facility* (BLM June, 1988) as management guidance for the authorization of public use of the Tract.

The June 1988 Tract management plan acknowledges that communication sites are present within the Central Administrative Zone. The context of the plan does not allow commercial use of the Tract<sup>1</sup>. However, the intent of the plan was to prevent the irreversible, irretrievable or long-term commitment of resources such as gravel extraction or the harvest of forest products. Rather, commercial use in this context is incidental and secondary to the site characterization activities as these activities were to be performed by BLM for its plans to upgrade the existing communications facilities and combine the two existing towers into a single communications tower. The site characterization is low impact activity on Campbell Tract's Central Administrative Site, and does not commit resources of Campbell Tract to a long term use or consumptive use.



New Cingular's commercial use of the Tract is in conformance with the *A Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the Bureau of Land Management Campbell Tract Facility* (BLM June, 1988).

Remarks: This action is the preliminary work necessary for New Cingular to complete prior to further contemplation of a communications site on Campbell Tract's Central Administrative Site, BLM case file AA - 090827. The installation of a new communications facility by New Cingular, or another qualified commercial entity, would be authorized pending an amendatory Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement of

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<sup>1</sup> June, 1988 Tract Management Plan, Page 49, OR-6: Commercial Uses

the existing Campbell Tract Plan of June, 1988 and a subsequent Finding of No Significant Impact or a Decision Record.

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**PART II - NEPA REVIEW**

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A. Categorical Exclusion Review.

This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9:

*Conducting preliminary hazardous materials assessments and site investigations, site characterization studies and environmental monitoring. Included are siting, construction installation and/or operation of small monitoring devices such as wells, particulate dust counters and automatic air or water samples.*

[516 DM 11.9] J(3)

B. Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances Review.

The following Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances apply to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents **MUST BE PREPARED** for actions which may: (Mark applicable answer for each item. If "yes", prepare an EA/EIS and append this form to it.)

		YES	NO
1.	Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.	<u>          </u>	<u>  X  </u>
2.	Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	<u>          </u>	<u>  X  </u>
3.	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	<u>          </u>	<u>  X  </u>
4.	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	<u>          </u>	<u>  X  </u>
5.	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant	<u>          </u>	<u>  X  </u>

	environmental effects.	_____	_____
6.	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	_____	<u>X</u>
7.	Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	_____	<u>X</u>
8.	Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	_____	<u>X</u>
9.	Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	_____	<u>X</u>
10.	Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	_____	<u>X</u>
11.	Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	_____	<u>X</u>
12.	Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	_____	<u>X</u>

I certify that none of the Departmental Extraordinary Circumstances listed in the above Part B (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action.

Remarks: Any findings and reports provided to New Cingular for this site characterization will be provided to BLM for its records and use.

Preparer(s): Jayme Lopez

Date: 2/19/09

### PART III – DECISION

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The proposed action is in conformance with a management framework plan or a resource management plan, 43 C.F.R. § 1610.8(a)(3) (2006). The Department of the Interior has determined and found that the proposed action is within a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and that neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required, 40 C.F.R. §1508.4 (2006).

It is therefore my decision to implement the action, as described, with appropriate mitigation measures or stipulations.

#### Mitigation Measures/Other Remarks:

1. Regulatory language of practicability notwithstanding (43 CFR 2920.7), comply with all existing and subsequently enacted, issued, or amended Federal laws and regulations and state laws and regulations applicable to the authorized use
2. The Permittee, or its contractors must provide proof of public liability insurance, prior to initiating operations, in the amount of \$600,000.00 per occurrence, and cover property damage, bodily injury or death arising out of the Permittee's authority to operate under this permit. Insurance shall name the United States as additional insured and continue through to the completion of the operations granted in the permit. Insurance shall not be cancelled, altered or deleted before a 30-day written notice is issued by the insurance company to the Anchorage Field Offices of BLM if operations under the permit have not been completed.
3. All wastes shall be managed in accordance with State of Alaska and Federal laws and regulations. New Cingular Wireless PCS shall comply with Pollution Prevention and Reporting Stipulations for management of Wastewater, Solid Waste, and Spill Prevention and Response procedures. Leaks or spills will be abated immediately with spill prevention and control kits;
4. Hours of operation during the installation of the site characterization are restricted to 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM or to local standards;
5. Operations are not to begin until the Authorized Officer approves of the dates of operation.
6. Equipment, construction materials and personal clothing will be inspected and cleaned of invasive, nonnative plant or seed substance before entering the project area. All vehicles, transport equipment used in access, construction, maintenance and operations of project should be thoroughly cleaned prior to moving equipment across or onto BLM managed lands. High pressure washing is recommended to treat the insides of bumpers, wheel wells, undercarriages, inside belly plates, excavating blades, buckets, tracks, rollers, drills, buckets, shovels, any digging tools, etc., to remove potential weeds, seeds, and soil carrying weed propagules, and non-native vegetative material;

7. All wastes shall be managed in accordance with State of Alaska and Federal laws and regulations. New Cingular Wireless PCS shall comply with Pollution Prevention and Reporting Stipulations for management of Wastewater, Solid Waste, and Spill Prevention and Response procedures. Leaks or spills will be abated immediately with spill prevention and control kits;
8. Full copies of all reports and findings will be provided to the Anchorage Field Office of BLM for its use and records.

Authorized Official: James M Fincher

Date: 3/11/2009